(c) At the end of May, 2002, nine States *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and all Union Territories have already achieved 100% village electrification as per 1991 census.

Ten States *i.e.* Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tripura are moving towards the achievements of full village electrification.

Nine States *i.e.* Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal are below the national level of 86.7% village electrification.

The average rural household electrification in the country, as per 1991 census is 31%. The States which are below the national average are Rajasthan, Tirpura, West Bengal, Orissa, Meghalaya, Assam, U.P., Bihar and J&K. All the rural households are targeted for electrification by 2012 and the States have reiterated their resolve to complete this task by 2012.

Handling over power distribution to Private Companies

†848. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to hand over the power distribution to private companies throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that private companies after obtaining all the rights are providing better facilities to industries only;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to exert pressure for providing better power to consumers; and

(f) if so, in what manner along with details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 3rd March, 2001 it was resolved that the commercial viability has to achieved in the distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following:

— Creating Profit centres with full accountability;

— Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/ Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary;

— Privatisation of distribution;

— Or any other means.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) and (f) Legislative provisions have been made by the Central and some of the State Governments for establishing Electricity Regulatory Commissions at the Central and State levels which *inter alia* ensure that the consumers interests are protected.

Completion of Universal Metering

849. SHRI C. RAMACHADRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 1KV and above metering in the first phase was to have been completed by the end of 2001;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the universal metering was also lagging behind through out the country;

(c) if so, what is State-wise progress of above programmes; and

(d) by when Government propose to complete universal metering?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Considering the importance of metering and reducing transmission and distribution losses, in the Power Mininsters Conference held on February 26, 2000, it was resolved to have a time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001. In pursuance of the decision taken in